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REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are being presented in order to more fully describe the background of the present invention.

Applicant's submit that no fees are necessitated in connection with the presentation of this Preliminary Amendment. However, should any such fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct them from Deposit Account No. 18-2000.

Respectfully submitted



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MARKED UP VERSION OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FAXED COPY RECEIVED

The two Paragraphs beginning on Page 6, line 11 and ending at Page 7, line 8, have been amended as follows:

Alternatively, in accordance with a second preferred embodiment of the present invention, the inventive endoluminal stent may consist of a plurality of substantially linear first structural elements oriented parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent and a plurality of generally sinusoidal second structural elements which interconnect adjacent pairs of the first structural elements and extend generally about the circumferential axis of the stent. Each of the plurality of first structural elements preferably extends substantially the entire longitudinal axis of the stent, again, however, it is contemplated that some or all of the plurality of first structural elements may be oriented parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent without extending substantially the entire longitudinal axis of the stent. The plurality of generally sinusoidal second structural elements form the circumferential links of the stent, and permit radial expansion[, either by an applied radially outwardly directed force which plastically deforms the second structural elements, under inherent spring tension or as a result of shape memory properties of the stent material, or combinations thereof] of the inventive endoluminal stent.

In accordance with all embodiments of the present invention, the plurality of first structural elements and the plurality of second structural elements may be fabricated of like biocompatible materials, preferably, biocompatible metals or metal alloys. In this manner, both the plurality of first structural elements and the plurality of second structural elements have like physical material properties, e.g., tensile strength, modulus of elasticity, [plastic deformability,] spring bias, shape memory or super-elastic properties. Alternatively, the plurality of first structural elements and the plurality of second structural elements may be fabricated of biocompatible materials, preferably, biocompatible metals or metal alloys which exhibit different physical or material properties. In this latter case, the plurality of first structural elements may, for example, be fabricated of a [plastically deformable material] spring biased material, such as stainless steel, while the plurality of second structural elements are fabricated of a shape memory or super-elastic material, such as nickel-titanium alloys[, or of a spring biased material, such as stainless steel].